The medium-sized fields would be developed through joint ventures between Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., (ONGC)/Oil India Limited (OIL) on the one hand and private companies on the other. ONGC/OIL would take a 40% share in the venture. The small-sized fields would be developed by companies on their own, with no participation by ONGC/OIL, under production sharing contracts. In both cases, companies would also be required to bear their share of statutory levies like royalty, cess, etc. Foreign companies would be levied income-tax at a fixed rate of 50%, while Indian companies would be governed by the relevant provisions of the Income-tax Act. In addition private companies would share profit oil with the Government.

(c) Proposals for award of 2 small sized fields under first offer, 6 medium and 14 small sized fields under 2nd offer are under consideration of Government of India. These are likely to be finalised shortly.

(d) Complete transparency has been followed in evaluating and awarding these contracts.

U.S. threat to India

624. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. Government have recently warned India that conducting of nuclear tests by the country would provoke severe sanctions against it;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government to the U.S. threat?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In response to US media reports of alleged preparation by India for a nuclear test, the US State Department in a press release stated, inter alia, that the US Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act, 1994 mandates severe sanctions on any non-nuclear weapon state which detonates a nuclear device. This was not conveyed in any official demarche by the US Government to the Government of India on this matter.

(c) In a statement in New Delhi, the official Spokesman stated that the US media reports were highly speculative.

Gas supplied by GAIL to Maharashtra

625. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: (a) the quantum of natural gas being supplied every month to the State of Maharashtra by the Gas Authority of India Ltd;

(b) whether the State Government has since requested for allocating more natural gas for its various gas based projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to increase the quota of natural gas to the State as per its demand; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Currently around 13 MMSCMD of natural gas is being supplied to projects in Maharashtra by the Gas Authority of India Limited.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Requests for additional allocations have been received from the State Government from time to time including a request for an additional allocation of 30 MMSCMD to various projects in the State.

(d) and (e) The gas projected to be available is fully allocated and it is not feasible to make additional allocations at present.

रुग्ण खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योगों को पुनः चालू करने हेतु कदम उठाया जाना

626. श्री रामजी लाल: क्या खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योगों की राज्यवार संख्या कितनी है, उनमें से कितने चल रहे हैं तथा कितने रुग्ण हैं तथा उनकी रुग्णता के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ख) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान उन्हें अर्थक्षम बनाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री के. पी. सिंह देव): (क) और (ख) खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग संगठित और असंगठित दोनों क्षेत्रों में है इसलिए घाटे में चल रहे खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योगों समेत सभी खाद्य